

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

## The City of Attleboro Water Department has levels of PFAS6 above the Drinking Water Standard

*This report contains important information about your drinking water.*

*Please translate it or speak with someone who understands it or ask the contact listed below for a translation.*

### ***What happened?***

**Our water system had a PFAS6 result that exceeded the PFAS6 MCL drinking water standard, for the period of July 2021 through September 2021** and is taking the following corrective actions: The Water Department has contracted with a consultant in order to conduct a pilot study for PFAS removal. This pilot study will commence in Spring 2022 and is the first step in the process of removing the PFAS from our system. Once the pilot study is complete, design and construction upgrades to the Wading River Plant can begin. In the meantime, the Wading River Plant has been removed from service and will remain offline throughout the winter. Therefore, the entire system is being fed from the Russell Tennant (West Street) Plant, which remains in compliance.

### ***What does this mean?***

**This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours.** Although this is not an emergency, as our customer, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

On October 2, 2020, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) promulgated a new drinking water regulation and maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for the sum of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAS6). Our water system proactively and voluntarily sampled for PFAS6 prior to the new regulations. See our latest results in the table below.

<b>PFAS6 Results for Wading River Treatment Plant (10356)</b>					
<b>Quarterly Compliance Period</b>	<b>Monitoring Period</b>	<b>Sample Collection Date</b>	<b>PFAS6 Result (ng/L)</b>	<b>Quarterly Average (ng/L)</b>	<b>PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)</b>
Quarter 2, 2021	Month 1	4/13/2021	14.0	<b>24.2*</b>	<b>20</b>
	Month 2	5/27/2021	34.4		
	Month 3	6/1/2021	24.3		
Quarter 3, 2021	Month 1	7/14/2021	34.1	<b>31.6*</b>	<b>20</b>
	Month 2	8/4/2021	36.6		
	Month 3	9/14/2021	28.0		

\* If any sample result would cause the quarterly average to exceed the MCL, the PFAS6 MCL has been violated.

<b>PFAS6 Results for Russell F. Tennant Treatment Plant (10350)</b>					
<b>Quarterly Compliance Period</b>	<b>Monitoring Period</b>	<b>Sample Collection Date</b>	<b>PFAS6 Result (ng/L)</b>	<b>Quarterly Average (ng/L)</b>	<b>PFAS6 MCL (ng/L)</b>
Quarter 2, 2021	Month 1	4/13/2021	10.5	<b>8.3</b>	<b>20</b>
	Month 2	5/27/2021	8.7		
	Month 3	6/1/2021	5.7		
Quarter 3, 2021	Month 1	7/14/2021	7.4	<b>5.4</b>	<b>20</b>
	Month 2	8/9/2021	2.2		
	Month 3	9/14/2021	6.5		

\* If any sample result would cause the quarterly average to exceed the MCL, the PFAS6 MCL has been violated.

Attleboro's Public Water Supply System (PWS) has two water treatment plants that supply water to the distribution system separately. The PFAS6 levels reported from the Russell F. Tennant Treatment Plant are below the 20 ppt MCL. The Wading River Treatment Plant results are above the MCL for PFAS6. This is the result of a sample result that caused the quarterly average to exceed the PFAS6 MCL. Even though we have been notifying you of our results since we began collecting samples, to comply with the new drinking water regulation, we must provide you with this public notice. An MCL is the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water which is delivered to any user of a public water system.

*Some people who drink water containing these PFAS in excess of the MCL may experience certain adverse effects. These could include effects on the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid, and fetal development. These PFAS may also elevate the risk of certain cancers.* For more information on PFAS6 see the attached factsheet and weblinks listed below.

### **What is PFAS6?**

PFAS6 includes perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA) and perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA). PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used in the manufacturing of certain fire-fighting foams, moisture and stain resistant products, and other industrial processes. For more information see the attached factsheet and weblinks listed below.

### **What do I need to do?**

- **Consumers in a sensitive subgroup (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system), are advised not to consume, drink, or cook with water when the level of PFAS6 is above 20 ng/L.**
- **Consumers in sensitive subgroups** are advised to use bottled water for drinking and cooking of foods that absorb water (like pasta). The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires companies licensed to sell or distribute bottled water or carbonated non-alcoholic beverages to test for PFAS. See [Water Quality Standards for Bottled Water in Massachusetts | Mass.gov](#)
- **For infant formula**, use bottled water or use formula that does not require adding water.
- **For older children and adults not in a sensitive subgroup**, the 20 ng/L value is applicable to a lifetime of consuming the water. For these groups, shorter duration exposures present less risk. However, if you are concerned about your exposure while steps are being taken to assess and lower the PFAS concentration in the drinking water, use of bottled water<sup>1</sup> will reduce your exposure.
- **Bottled water should only be used if it has been tested.** The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires companies licensed to sell or distribute bottled water or carbonated non-alcoholic beverages to test for PFAS. See [Water Quality Standards for Bottled Water in Massachusetts | Mass.gov](#)
- Some home water treatment systems used to treat/filter individual faucets or entire homes can or may be able to lower the level of PFAS6 in drinking water. **Our public water system has not evaluated any home treatment systems or devices to determine their efficacy to remove and maintain PFAS6 below 20 ng/L and is not aware of a currently available home treatment system or device shown to meet the Massachusetts drinking water standard for PFAS6 of 20 ng/L.** Therefore, when deciding on home water treatment and PFAS6, you should be aware of the specific information on home water treatment systems and PFAS6. See the specific information on home water treatment and PFAS6 at the links below.
- **In most situations the water can be safely used for washing foods, brushing teeth, bathing, and showering.**
- **Boiling the water will not destroy PFAS6** and will somewhat increase its level due to evaporation of some of the water.
- **If you have specific health concerns regarding exposure, you should see the Centers for Disease Control's link below and consult a health professional, such as your doctor.**

For more information see the attached factsheet and weblinks listed below.

### **What is being done?**

The Attleboro Water Department has taken the following pro-active measures:

- The Wading River Treatment Plant has been removed from service.
- We will continue to sample the Russell F. Tennant Treatment Plant for PFAS.
- We are investigating short and long term treatment options for possible future use of activated carbon or resin filtration at the Wading River Plant. Pilot testing is expected to begin this spring, and we are hopeful to have installed temporary treatment at the Wading River Plant in the spring of 2022, as final upgrades to the facility could take up to 3 years or more.
- When additional information becomes available, this public notice will be updated.
- For members of sensitive subgroups that are still concerned about the PFAS issue, water is being made available for pickup by sensitive subgroups (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system) at the Russell F. Tennant Plant, located at 1296 West Street in Attleboro. Residents must bring their own containers. The tap for this use is located at the water shop just to the right when entering the lot from West Street. This tap is available for residents from 7 AM to 7 PM, 7 days per week.
- A list of bottled water companies that voluntarily tested their water for PFAS and shared the results can be found on MassDEP's website at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/bottled-water-tested-for-pfas>.
- Prior to the Wading River Treatment Plant being returned to service, public notice will be provided, which will include additional sample results for PFAS6, and an explanation of treatment or other actions taken to support the return of Wading River Treatment Plant to service.
- When additional information becomes available, this public notice will be updated.

### ***Where can I get more information?***

For more information, please contact Kourtney Wunschel, Water Superintendent at 774-203-1850, or [water1@cityofattleboro.us](mailto:water1@cityofattleboro.us).

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- [MassDEP Fact Sheet - Questions and Answers for Consumers \(https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351\)](https://www.mass.gov/media/1854351)
- [CDC ATSDR Information on PFAS for consumers and health professionals \(https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html\)](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html)
- [Massachusetts Department of Public Health information about PFAS in Drinking Water - https://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-in-drinking-water)

Attached: *MassDEP PFAS in Drinking Water Fact Sheet- Questions and Answers for Consumers*

This notice is being sent to you by:

The Attleboro Water Department

System ID#: MA4016000

Date distributed: 10/30/2021

We will provide public notice updates every three months until the situation has been resolved.

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*